THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D: SWAMI): (a) to (c) As per available information, 4,252 cases have been registered, charge sheets have been filed in different courts of law in 2,014 cases and 23,777 accused have been arrested in substantive offences. The cases are in various stages of investigation and trial.

Foreign capital investment in mining sector

†1474. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approval has been given for foreign capital investment in the mining sector,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether high class technology has been introduced after according approval for capital investment in this sector and if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) The Government has liberalized its Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in the mining sector which allows foreign equity holding upto 100%, on the automatic route for all non fuel and non atomic minerals except diamonds and precious stones. This covers exploration, mining, mineral processing and metallurgy. In the case of diamonds and precious stones, foreign equity upto 74% is allowed on the automatic route for both exploration and mining operations. However, proposals seeking higher than 74% foreign equity for diamonds and precious stones are considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 has also been suitably amended to make it more investor friendly.

The FIPB, in consultation with the Ministry of Mines, has so far approved 72 proposals of FDI in the mining sector. The Indian subsidiary companies of global mining companies have taken permits for reconnaissance operations involving state-of-the-art technology for aerial, geophysical and geochemical surveys for exploring minerals.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.